Bridging the Middle!

A pilot project to increase educational stability and improve the educational outcomes of middle school-aged foster youth in Wayne County.

Bridging the Middle!
Current State of Youth in Foster Care

- 63% students held back in middle school left school without a high school diploma

- Successful completion of 9th grade is a predictor of high school graduation

- 50% FCY do not complete high school

- 35% of the FY ages 10 to 17 in Wayne County are older than their same grade-level peers.

- 25% foster care youth were identified as being enrolled in a special education program – 2X rate youth enrolled across school districts in Wayne County (13%) and 17% of Detroit Public School students.

Multiple agencies with a common mission:

Court/legal, child welfare, health, and education practitioners seeking to effectively serve children in foster care.
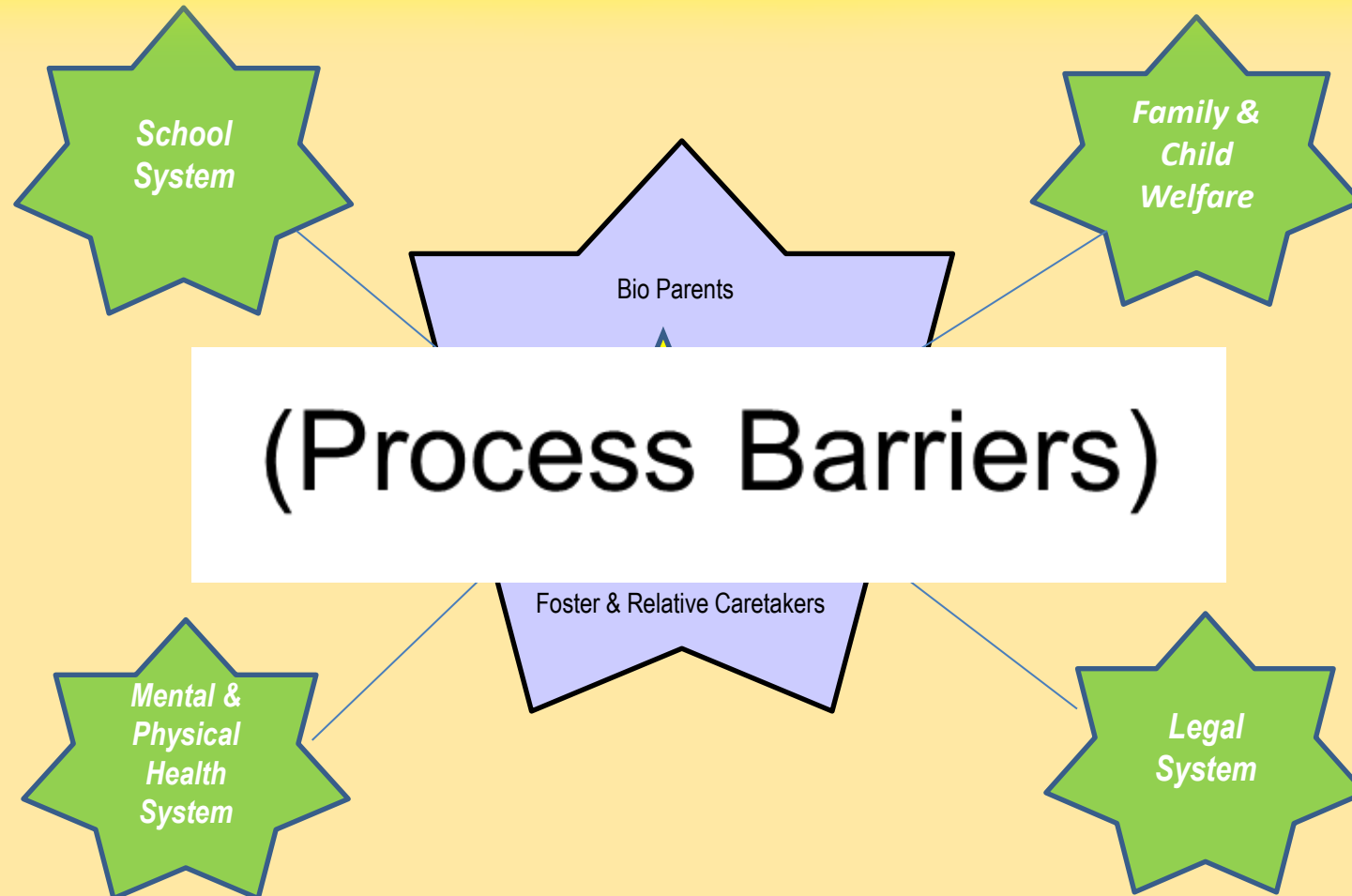
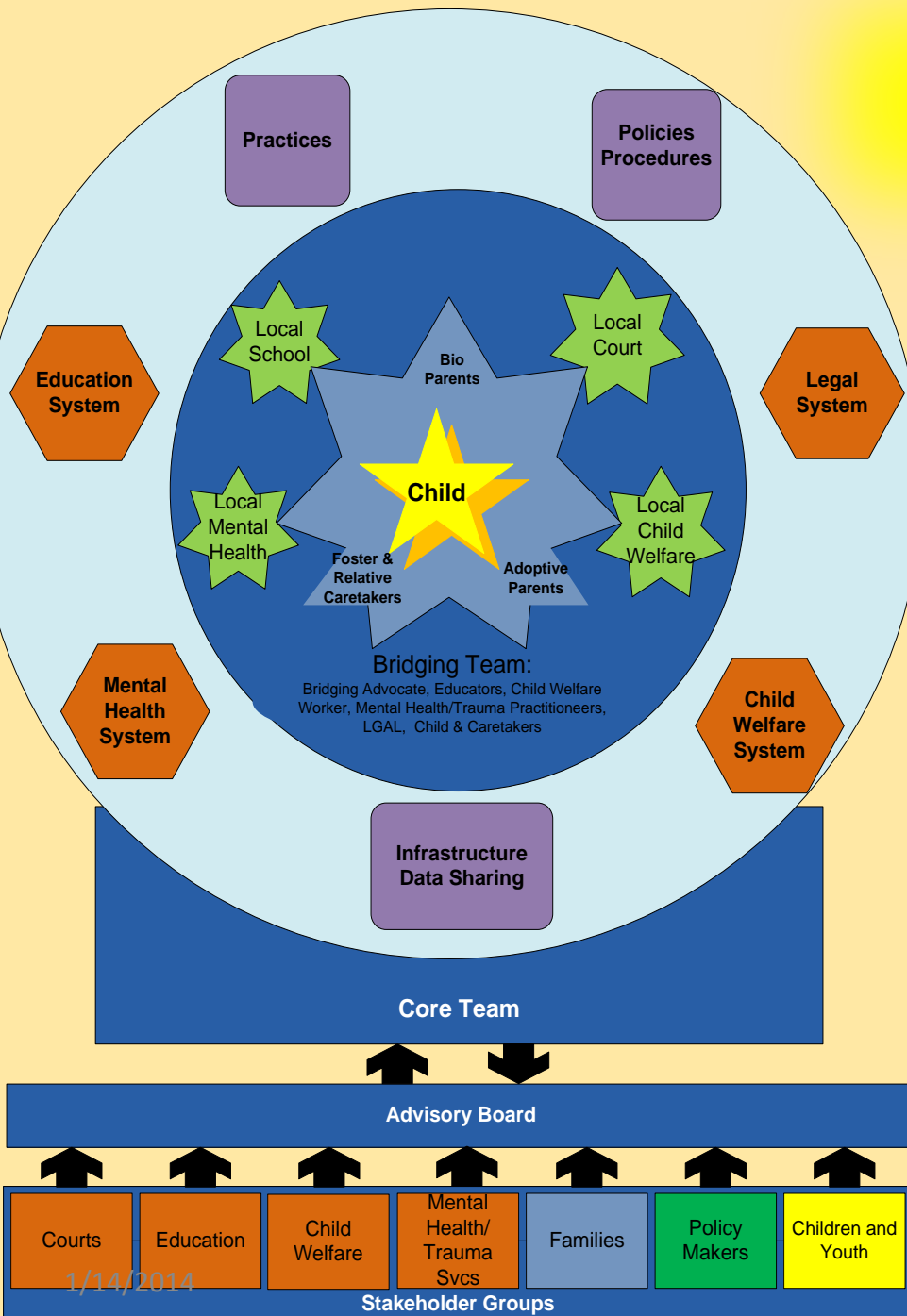We all want the same thing *and* we can all do better!

Bridging the Middle!
Making Change

How do we ensure a better practice across our systems of care?

- ✓ Analyze current <u>process barriers</u>:
  - Clear understanding of other systems
  - Ease of sharing data and information

- ✓ Establish a <u>new process</u>

Bridging the Middle!
THE PROPOSED MODEL

Bridging Team: (at school)
* Child & Family/Caretakers
* School Professionals
* Child Welfare Caseworkers
* Mental & Physical Health Professionals
* Legal Representatives

Review, revise:
* Policies/Procedures
* Infrastructure for collaboration
* Data sharing process

Core Team: State and Local Partners
* Courts – Legal System
* DHS – Family & Child Welfare
* MDE/Wayne RESA/Local Schools
* DCH/Community Mental Health & Child & Adolescent Health Centers
* WSU - Social Work; Education

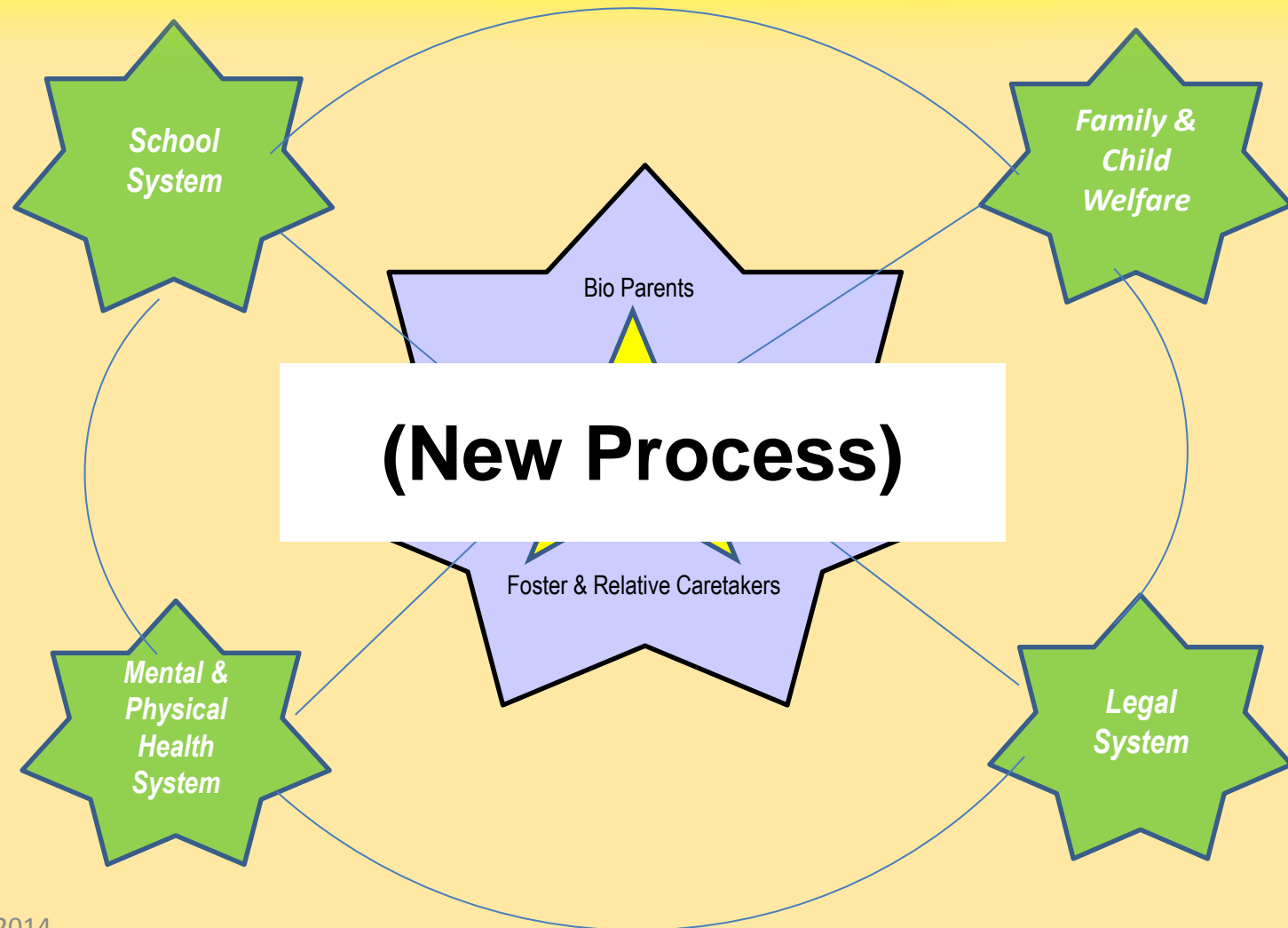**Foundation:**
* Advisory Board of Community Stakeholders

Bridging the Middle!

Meet Angel again

School System

Family & Child Welfare

Bio Parents

(New Process)

Foster & Relative Caretakers

Mental & Physical Health System

Legal System

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How Will We Do This?

- ✓ Solidify the Core Team of Stakeholders
- ✓ Develop a shared flow chart of services
- ✓ Initiate Professional Development
- ✓ Identify Schools and Youth
- ✓ Create the Bridging Teams in Schools
- ✓ Evaluate and Plan for Sustainability

Bridging the Middle!
Solidify the Core Team

- Identify Team members, including hiring the Bridging Advocates

- Determine regular meeting times, format, mode of communication, etc.

- Share policies and procedures

- Begin to address data sharing needs

Create a flow chart depicting decision-making processes:

- What is the ideal progression of services within each system?

- What are the responsibilities of each system?

Bridging the Middle!
Initiate Professional Development

To Improve Expertise and Capacity:

- Educate each system about how other systems operate

- Utilize cross-training approach

- Help each system understand natural constraints and barriers

Bridging the Middle!
Create the Bridging Teams

Schools are the Ideal Coordination Hub

Bridging Advocate will:

- Utilize existing School Assistance or Coordinated School Health Teams or develop them if needed

- Gather resources

- Assist with implementation of coordinated interventions

- Provide ongoing support to keep the foster youth engaged and in school

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Evaluate/Plan for Sustainability

✓ **Evaluation**

- Document implementation at each pilot site
- Evaluate integrated decision making model and processes during implementation
- Track systems changes on individual youth outcome trajectories

✓ **Sustainability**

- Manualize intervention procedures (owned by all 4 systems)
- Distribute costs across systems
- Develop policy & strategies for sustainability

Bridging the Middle!

This Model improves youth success through

- Coordination of expert knowledge and professionals linked to youth

- Development of a data sharing method accessible by multiple agencies

- Use of a knowledge and practice-rich approach to ensure that youth reap the full benefits of services with maximum effectiveness.

Family & Child Welfare

Mental & Physical Health System

Legal System

School System

YOUTH SUCCESS

Bridging the Middle!
Youth Outcomes

- ✓ **Educational**
  - Decreased time away from instruction
  - Decreased **disciplinary** referrals
  - **On track** for graduation and **post-secondary** pursuits

- ✓ **Child Welfare**
  - Improved **placement stability**
  - Better coordinated & improved **transition plans**

- ✓ **Mental & Physical Health Services**
  - Reduction of **risk behaviors**
  - Increased access & utilization of mental & physical health services

- ✓ **Courts**
  - Better informed decision-making regarding youth's academic and social/emotional functioning

Bridging the Middle!
System Outcomes

Each system's effectiveness increases through cross system communication, coordination and collaboration

- ✓ Partners <u>share</u> responsibility for youth success
- ✓ Home and <u>school</u> permanency are a priority
- ✓ Educational success becomes a <u>stronger focus</u>
- ✓ <u>Trauma informed</u> practices are integrated
- ✓ Reduction in duplication of assessments and services

3 year budget (see handout)

- ✓ Reflects roll out of pilot in 12-15 schools starting with early adopters

- ✓ Is represented by functional line item categories (e.g., building curriculum, conducting training, implementing pilot schools, evaluation, support costs)

- ✓ Indirect costs are distributed and embedded across functional areas of the initiative

- ✓ Total cost across 3 years = $999,277

Bridging the Middle!
Funding Support To-Date

	TOTAL	CASEY FAMILY PROGRAMS	BALANCE TBD
Year 1: Planning and Infrastructure Development	293,021	75,000	218,021
Year 2: Implementation and Evaluation	324,284	75,000	249,284
Year 2: Implementation, Evaluation and Dissemination	381,972	75,000	306,972
TOTAL	**$999,277**	**$225,000**	**$774,277**

Questions?

Bridging the Middle!
Proposal Team

Angelique Day (PI) & Joanne Sobeck: WSU School of Social Work

Tracy McCullough: Wayne County DHS

Carlynn Nichols: Detroit-Wayne Mental Health Authority

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Francesca Pernice-Duca, Cheryl Somers (PI), & Jina Yoon: WSU College of Education, School Psychology

Terri Czerwinski & Kathy Gibson: Wayne RESA